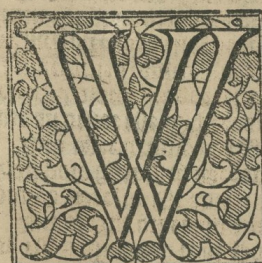


A Proclamation Concerning Tobacco, 1630



By the King.

A Proclamation concerning Tobacco.



Hereas in the Reigne of Our most deare and Royall Father, King IAMES of blessed memory, & since Our accessse to the Crowne, severall Proclamations have been made and published concerning Tobacco, Yet notwithstanding all the care and providence which hath hitherto been bled, we finde the unlimited desire of gaine, and the inordinate appetite of taking Tobacco, hath so farre prevailed, that Tobacco hath been continued to bee planted in great quantities, in severall parts of this Our Realme, and a vast proportion of unserviceable Tobacco made and brought from Our Colonies of Virginia, Summer Ilands, and other Our Forreigne Plantations, besides an incredible quantity of Brasill and Spanish Tobacco imported hither, and secretly conveyed on Land. And it is now come to passe, That those Our Forreigne Plantations, that might become blefull to this Kingdome, lingering onely vpon Tobacco, are in apparant danger to be bitterly ruined, vnlesse wee speedily provide for their subsistence, The bodies and manners of Our people are also in danger to bee corrupted, and the wealth of this Kingdome exhausted by so blelesse a weede as Tobacco is, which beeing represented vnto Us by the humble Petition of Our louing Subjects the Planters and Aduenturers in Virginia, and also by the like humble Petition of the Retailers and Sellers of Tobacco in and about Our Cities of London and Westminster, wee haue thought it worthy of Our Princely care, as a matter not only fit for Our profit, & the profit of Our people, but much concerning Us in Our honour and government so to regulate the same, and compell due obedience thereto, that Our Forreigne Plantations and Colonies may bee supported and encouraged, and they made blefull to this Kingdome, by applying themselves to more solide commodities, that the healths of Our Subjects may be preferred, the wealth of this Kingdome enlarged, and the manners of Our people so ordered and gouerned, that the world may not iustly taxe Us, that these are at once endangered only by the licentious ble of Tobacco. And therfore hauing seriously aduised hereof, wee, by the aduice of Our Pruiue Councell, haue now resolved vpon, and published these Our Commands following concerning Tobacco, which Our Royall Will and pleasure is, shall be in all things obserued vpon paine of Our highest displeasure, and of such paines, penalties and punishments, as by Our Court of Exchequer, and Court of Starre Chamber, and by any other Courts and ministers of Justice, or by Our prerogative Royall can be inflicted vpon the offenders.

Citation: "By the King: A Proclamation Concerning Tobacco," London: Printed by Robert Barker et al., 1630, Broadside 1631 .E58 F, Special Collections, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

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And first, Our Will and Command is, that no person Whatsoever doe at any time hereafter plant, preferue, or maintaine any Tobacco which is, hath been, or shall be planted in Our Kingdomes of England or Ireland, or Dominion of Wales, or in the Islands of Iersey or Guernesey, but that the same bee utterly displanting and destroyed, and that none presume or adventure to Buy, Sell, or utter any such Tobacco, the same being utterly unwholesome to bee taken.

And further, that no Tobacco Whatsoever be from henceforth imported into these Our realmes, or any Haven, Port, Creeke or place thereof, which is, or shall be of the growth of any the parts or places beyond the Seas, belonging to, or vnder the obedience of any foraine King, Prince, or State Whatsoever; But such, and so much thereof onely, as wee shall specially allow to be imported, untill it shall be fully settled betweene those Foraine Princes and Us, according to those Treaties which are betweene Us, that Our Subiects may not vnchristly vent the solide Commodities of Our owne Kingdomes, and returne the proceed thereof in Smoake.

And further we Will and command, that no Tobacco of the growth of any of Our English Plantations in Virginia the Sommer Islands, Caribbee Islands, or other Islands or places in America, or the Coasts thereof, be at any time hereafter imported or brought into Our Kingdomes of England or Ireland, or Dominion of Wales, at any other Port then at, or in Our Port of London onely, and the same duely entred in Our Custome-houses there, nor that any greater quantitie thereof be imported there, then wee by the aduice of Our Privie Councell shall hold fit, and vnder Our Privie Seale, shall declare to bee competent for the expence of these Our Kingdomes, wee not thinking it fit to admit of an immeasurable expence of so vaine and needlesse a Commoditie, which ought to be vled as a Drugge onely, and not so vainely and wantonly as an euill habite of late times hath brought it vnto.

And these sorts of Tobacco which shall be thus brought from Our owne Colonies, wee Will take present order shall bee well ordered and made vp, and so certified to bee, vnder the hand of the Gouvernour of that place, and when the same shall be brought hither, shall bee againe Searched, Tryed and Sealed, that Our Subiects be not abused by corrupt Tobacco.

And Our expresse Command is, that Whatsoever Tobacco shall bee taken, which shall be imported contrary to this Our Proclamation, the same shall be forfeited and confiscate, and by the Officers of that Port or place where it shall bee taken, shall be immediately burnt.

And for the ordering and gouerning of the expence and vse of Tobacco when it shall be imported, wee, by the aduice of Our Privie Councell, shall speedily direct such a course as wee shall hold fit, which wee expect shall be also in all things obserued.

And wee straitly charge and Command all Our Customers, Comptrollers, Searchers, and all other the Officers and Ministers of Our Ports, that they and euery of them in their severall places, doe carefully and faithfully obserue Our Royal Command, in, and concerning the premisses; and if any of them shall be found remisse or negligent therein, or to conniue at any such offender, that hee or they shall for such their fault, without any remission be remooued from the place or places of his or their attendance on Our seruice.

And to the end Our pleasure and Command hereby published, may be the better executed, wee doe hereby Will, require and Command, all Maiors, Sheriffes, Iustices of peace, Bayliffes, Headboroughs, and other Our Officers and louing Subiects Whatsoever, to be aiding and assisting, and so much as in them lyeth, to take care that the premisses herein mentioned, be duly put in execution, as they tender their duetie and allegiance to Us, and will answere the contrary at their bittermost perils.

Given at Our Court at Whitehall the sixt day of Ianuary, in the sixt yeere of Our Reigne.

God saue the King.

Imprinted at London by Robert Barker, Printer to the Kings
most Excellent Maiestie: and by the Assignes of
Iohn Bill. 1630.

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